BRITAIN's Golden Mines discover'd:

OR, THE

Fishery Trade considered,

Under these Three Heads,

I. What Benefit *Britain* may reap by it.

II. Which is the most probable Way of recovering it.

III. The Three great Fishing Trades, *viz.* That upon our own Coasts, That upon the Coasts of *Greenland*, and that upon the Coasts of *Newfoundland*, particularly examined.

IN A

LETTER

FROM

Sally Fisher, at *PARIS*,

TO

Mally Loverus, at *LONDON*.

London: Printed for *J. Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*. Price 1 *s.* 1720.

To all Honeſt and Good-natur'd Readers, and in particular to my Fellow Sufferers the Ladies and Spinſters of Great-Britain *and* Ireland, *Dominion of* Wales, *and Town of* Berwick *upon* Tweed, *and* Colonies *and* Plantations *thereto belonging.*

THE following Letter, which I now communicate to you, was writ to me ſome Time ago; I uſed the Freedom with my Comrade to ſhew it to ſome of our Acquaintance here, both Male and Female; they all were of my Opinion, that it ought to be Printed, becauſe it might, perhaps, give ſome People a diſſerent Way of thinking about Trade, from what they have. I therefore write to *Sally* the Opinion of her Acquaintance here, and deſired a Liberty from her to publiſh it to the World,

which ſhe has had the good Nature to grant me: If any of you therefore learn a new Thought from what ſhe writes, you owe Thanks only to her.

It is not to be preſum'd, that the Merchants and other People who have apply'd themſelves particularly to the Study of the Theory of Trade, ſhould learn any thing new about it from a Female Pen, but as ſhe ſays, the Ladies ſhe hopes, will read it, for they are always fond to enquire into the Productions of their own Sex; and if the Ladies do, ſhe is ſure all the Beaus will read it, whoſe Heads are not generally ſo extreamly full of Ideas, but that ſhe conceives Hopes to tell them ſomething they, before, knew Nothing of: From thoſe who learn Nothing ſhe expects good Nature and Forgiveneſs, and from thoſe who learn, ſhe ſeeks only a generous Acknowledgement of the Obligation,

ligation, and for theſe only ſhe writes: She values not thoſe four ſplenatick, ill-natur'd Pedants who can take Notice of nothing in any Performance, but the Faults, tho' ſhe is apt to believe, they will be well enough pleas'd with her Letter; for as the true Criticks Pleaſure conſiſts in the Beauties of any Work, ſo theirs conſiſts in the Blemiſhes, and when they can find nothing to carp at, they are out of Humour, and cry, there is Nothing in it: It is obſerv'd, that every Man likes beſt, what moſt reſembles himſelf: It is therefore no Wonder theſe Pedants ſhould be moſt in Love with the Shades, or as I may call them, the Beauty Spots of any Production of Wit or Judgment; their Minds are full of Shades, and their Underſtandings always under a Cloud, and for that Reaſon they cannot look upon any thing that ſhines with a refulgent Brightneſs,

it

it dazzles the weak Eyes of their cloudy Underſtandings.

Nor will ſhe regard much the envious Reproaches of thoſe People who learn from her but are too proud to acknowledge it; and leſt they ſhould be thought to have learned from her what they really gather from her Writings, take all the Pains they can to revile and undervalue their Benefactor.

One Favour my Correſpondent particularly begs of you good Ladies and Gentlemen, that you will not ſit down to read her Letter when you are oppreſſed with the Spleen; it may, perhaps, prevent the Spleen, but ſhe dare not pretend that it has Force enough to baniſh that Tyrant from a Place which he has once got Poſſeſſion of. She therefore intreats of you, Ladies, that you would ſit down to read this Letter in a clear Sun-ſhine Day, juſt after you return from the Ring, and

have

have had the Satisfaction to obſerve your ſelf and your Equipage more taken Notice of than any Liveryman, Coach, or Thing within, that was there ; or in a warm *May* Evening, after you return from having walk'd in *Kenſington-Gardens* with a new brocade Suit, which turn'd the Eyes of the whole People in the Gardens upon it, while you was pleaſed to think that they all gazed at you ; or after coming from a Tea-table, where you firſt heard the News of *Clarinda* the famous Toaſt's tying her Apron a little too high, and being neglected by the falſe, tho' fine Gentleman, who prevail'd with her to do ſo.

And of you, pretty Fellows, according to your ſeveral Ranks and Degrees, ſhe deſires you would come rightly prepared to read her Book : She deſires the dapper City Apprentice to put on his new Natural Periwig, his red topt Shoes, or his

new

new ſilk Morning Gown, and after ſome pleaſant Views of a fine Gentleman in his Glaſs, and ſtanding a while at his Shop Door, to kill all the Ladies that have the Misfortune to paſs that Way, to ſit down and read. She hopes the Beaus about *Will*'s or *Tom*'s will buy a new Diamond Brilliant, an embroider'd Suit, or a Tortoiſhell Cane, before they look upon her Writings: And ſhe entreats thoſe witty Gentlemen who frequent the *Roſe-Tavern* and the Brandyſhops in *Drury*, who can put an impudent Face upon it, and ſhew all the Ladies in the Pit and Boxes, that they have Courage enough to ſpeak to a Whore in the ſecond Gallery, to take up her Book juſt after they have firſt prevailed upon their Laundreſs or the Kitchin-Wench to grant them a Favour: She deſires the Gameſter to read it after a lucky Run at Game; the Stock-Jobber who has

ſold

ſold Refuſals after falling of Stocks: The Lawyer after getting a retaining Fee from a rich Client: The Stateſman afterthe Fall of his Rival Favourite; and the poor Wit, after he hears a great Lord repeat his Pun: In ſhort, She deſires every Body to come to her in good Humour, and expreſly forbids any Perſon to touch her Book in a gloomy Day, unleſs they are at a warm Fire Side, with a Bottle of good Wine on the Table, and Money enough in their Pocket.

I cannot but blame the Cuſtom of our Country which makes it unfaſhionable for fine Ladies to know any thing about Buſineſs: In my Opinion it would much better become a Shopkeeper's Wife to ſet up for underſtanding the Trade her Husband deals in, than to ſet up for a Wit, and a nice Judge of Plays and Opera's. I cannot ſee any Reaſon why we have not Girls as well

as Boys bred Apprentices to moſt ſorts of Shop-keeping in and about the City of *London*; it would be a great Help to a young Shop-keeper that his Wife could keep his Shop and Books as well as any Servant he could hire.

Our Women might likewiſe be made much more uſeful to the Nation by being bred to ſeveral ſorts of Mechanick Trades, which, at preſent, are thought proper only for Men, for no other Reaſon, but becauſe it's the Cuſtom. I would be glad to hear a good Reaſon why Women may not be Taylors, Perriwig-makers, Weavers, *&c.* as well as Men; for my Part, I think theſe Employments more proper for Women than Men. I wonder the Men are not aſhamed of their Uſurpations upon us; what a Scandal is it to ſee a tall brawny young Fellow, ſitting all Day upon a Table with his Legs a-croſs, and a Needle

in his Hand: Such are more proper to be bred Seamen, Wrights or Smiths, which require Strength as well as Art: I think, indeed, it's no Fault in the Government to make their own Uſe, ſometimes, of theſe idle legg'd Gentlemen, when there is any Uſe for Recruits.

For the Ladies of Quality and Eſtates, they will find Buſineſs enough, if they look narrowly to the Management and Conduct of their Family: If they underſtood Book-keeping, and had a Servant for that End, they would know much better than they do, how the Rents of their Eſtates are conſum'd: If they can ſpare any leiſure Hours, they ought rather to employ them in reading ſome good Book, than in ſitting over a Tea-table, ſpeaking and hearing Scandal of all their Friends and Acquaintance.

The natural Love I have for my own Sex forces me to wiſh, that

they were all bred to ſome Buſineſs or other, and not allow'd to depend entirely upon the Fortune and Induſtry of their Husbands. It would prevent the Miſery of a great many of the poorer Sort I am perſwaded that many of thoſe poor abandon'd Wretches, who walk the Streets and expoſe themſelves to the vileſt ſort of Men, do it meerly for Want of Bread: Tho' their own Miſmanagement or Wickedneſs may, at firſt, lead them into that Way of Living, or rather Starving; yet I have the Charity to think, that few or none of them continue long in it without being ſenſible of their Wickedneſs and Misfortune, but then they cannot get out of it; being generally bred to no Buſineſs, they cannot live by their own handy Work, and no honeſt Body will take them into their Houſe as a Servant, ſo that for Want of Bread to their Teeth, they are forc'd to continue in their Lewd-

Lewdneſs. Many Parents have the Misfortunes of their Children to anſwer for, by breeding them up in Idleneſs they expoſe them to all the Temptations of the World, for Idleneſs is always the Mother of Wickedneſs.

Some little Buſineſs is neceſſary even to Ladies of Eſtates, they often fall into an Intrigue for Want of other Employment, which generally ends in the Ruin of at leaſt their Character and Reputation. And their having ſomething to do would prevent, in a great Meaſure, that faſhionable Diſeaſe the Spleen or Vapours: It is rather a Diſeaſe of the Mind than of the Body, and is more ready to ſeize one of a ſanguine and lively Conſtitution, than thoſe of a dull and heavy Spirit. To talk like a Doctor, the animal Spirits of the Sanguine are always in a Ferment, and if they are not directed to ſome certain End, they run into

to an irregular and confuſed Motion, which diſturbs all the Faculties of the Mind, and makes the Perſon affected uneaſie, without knowing at what : Even that ſort of Spleen which is the Effect of what we call a dull or foggy Day, proceeds from the ſame Cauſe, *viz.* the not knowing what to do with our ſelves : The buſie Part of the World are little more ſubject to the Spleen in this ſort of Weather, than in any other, but the idle are quickly ſenſible of a dull or rainy Day ; they are at ſome Loſs how to paſs away a fair Day, and at a much greater how to diſpoſe of themſelves in rainy Weather, ſo that if they fall not upon ſome Houſe Divertiſment, they loiter idly in a Coffee-houſe or in their own Rooms, till they ſink deep into the Spleen.

It is impoſſible for any Body to give a ſatisfactory Deſcription of this Diſeaſe, it is never the ſame in two

two Perſons, yea, it has often different Effects upon the ſame Man or Woman: It may be call'd a Kind of Anger, or, if you will, a Diſpoſition to be angry; it may likewiſe be eſteem'd a Degree of Grief, whoſe Cauſe is ſo trivial, that it's not to be perceiv'd. Whatever it is, it's now a moſt faſhionable Diſeaſe, and is of an old ſtanding, for it ſeems to have been in Being in the Days of *Auguſtus* firſt Emperor of *Rome*, tho' for what I remember, they had no particular Name for it, the Reaſon of which I believe is, that it was not then become a Cuſtom for Ladies in this Diſtemper to employ Phyſicians, the worthy Godfathers of all Diſeaſes. However *Horace* gives us an Account of his being infected with it, as appears by the Deſcription of his Diſeaſe in the the eighth Epiſtle of his firſt Book, which *Creech* ſo tranſlates:

Yet

Yet ſay, what ill, unpleaſant Life I live:
Not 'cauſe the Hail doth break my Vines, or Heat
My Corn, nor cauſe my Olives ſhrink with Beat;
Or Herbs grow ſickly in my foreign Plain;
No, but becauſe my Soul is vex'd with Pain,
(The Body ſound) it is a ſharp Diſeaſe,
And yet I can't endure to hear of Eaſe:
I ſtorm at my Phyſician, hate my Friend,
Becauſe they ſtrive to wake my drowſy Mind:
What's good I hate, and what will hurt approve,
Unſettled ſtill, and as wild Fancies rove,
At Tyber, Rome, *at* Rome, *I,* Tyber *love.*

The Expreſſion is much ſtronger in the *Latine*; they who underſtand it, may look to it in the Original.

Tho' there are none of my Sex loves their own Eaſe better than I do, yet I have always kept my ſelf employed about ſomething or another, and ſtill before one thing is done, I contrive ſome new Buſineſs for my ſelf, ſo that there is never an Hour of my Life, but I have ſome ſet Work to do. This I tell you, my dear Splenatick Ladies by Way of Advice, for if you follow my Example, your Husbands, Servants, and yourſelves will lead a much pleaſanter Life than you do; which are the hearty Wiſhes of,

Good, Gentlemen and Ladies,

Your moſt ſincere Friend,

MALLY LOVERUS.

BRITAIN's

Golden Mines Diſcover'd:

OR THE

Fiſhery Trade Conſider'd, &c.

MADAM,

OUR Friendſhip has, at laſt, got the better of your Indolence: You have, at laſt, fulfill'd your Promiſe to me; you may remember our mutual Engagegagements at Parting: I promiſed, that as ſoon as I was at *Paris* I would ſend you my Addreſs; I did it accordingly: You oblig'd your ſelf to ſend

me immediately, upon Receipt of mine, an Account of all our Friends at *London*, and of any little private Novels you heard of. It was ſeven long Months before you paid your Debt, and to a needy Creditor too. Strange Effect of Lazineſs! I muſt impute it to that only; the Eſteem I have for you will not allow me to impute it to any thing elſe; nay, upon my own Account I dare not impute it to your Neglect of me, the very Thought would torment me. For God's-ſake conſider the Longings of an abſent Friend, take Courage and be a little more active, then ſhall I frequently hear from you.

I have often told you, that you allow that natural Inclination you have to Study and Retirement to prevail too much upon you; when it gets the better of either Man or Woman, it renders them entirely uſeleſs for Society, and unfit for the Buſineſs of this Life. I think we were both much obliged to our Fathers for giving us an Education far beyond what is ordinarily given to the Ladies of our Country. It is good Policy in the Men to debar Women from the Qualification of Learning; moſt of the Beaus among them would look like what they really are, in the Eyes of our Sex, if we had all the Advantages of Edu-

Education they have; we could admire the Perriwig-Maker or the Taylor without admiring the empty Creature, who ſeeks Eſteem only from their Performances. Many of the fine Fops who now a Days paſs for what the Men call good Womens Men, and are eſteem'd great Wits among the Ignorant and Thoughtleſs Things of our Sex, would ſoon be diſcover'd to be meer trifling Coxcombs, if our Parents would teach us how to adorn our Minds as well as they teach us how to adorn our Bodies: A gold Snuff-box, a clouded Cane, or a Diamond Brilliant would not then make ſuch Havock of poor Female Hearts as at preſent they do; we could diſtinguiſh betwixt the Wit of a Man's Head, and that of his Heels, and put a Difference betwixt the fine Gentleman and the Dancing-Maſter.

I ſhall never enough admire my Father's Fortitude, who ſtood the Shock of a laughing World, who dared to get out of the common Road, and teach his Daughter to underſtand Latine. I learn'd it when other Girls were drinking Tea, or diverting themſelves with ſome ſuch idle Amuſement. It never retarded my acquiring any of the ordinary Accompliſhments of my Sex; but how often has it ſince diverted me from the Spleen:

That modiſh Diſeaſe called the Vapours is quite a Stranger to me; a Page in *Virgil* or an Ode of *Horace* I have always found a ſovereign Remedy againſt all Attacks of that conſtant Plague and troubleſome Attendant of idle Mortals, call'd the Spleen. The little Inſight I have got into that Language has given me ſuch a Deſire of Knowledge, that I have always ſomething to do, I have not Time for the Vapours. Knowledge is like Wine, the more one has of it, the more he deſires, and of both one may ſuck in too great a Quantity. But above all, the Advantages I have got by my Education, I prize its making you my Friend. The mutual Eſteem our Fathers bore to each other, firſt began our Acquaintance, and the Conformity of our Age, Education and Inclinations rooted and increaſed our Friendſhip: The only Difference I can find betwixt us is, that I apply my Education towards the Buſineſs of this Life, and the Advancement of my Fortune in the World, whereas you apply all yours towards the Learning how to be buſie without Buſineſs, and how to be diverted without Company.

You deſire a Character of the Regent, Mr. *Laws*, and the French Nation. The Regent, you know, is a Prince, a Man of great

great Power, therefore his Character ought not to be medled with while he is alive. If a Prince's Character is bad, no Man for his own Sake ought deſcribe it, and if the Character is good, one runs the Riſque of being eſteem'd a Flatterer, and of offending a wiſe Prince if he gives his Character while he is alive. I ſhall therefore ſay nothing of the Regent; I cannot ſay what I ought, and I am afraid you would not believe what I could. I am perſwaded his Character will be tranſmitted by Fame to Poſterity, much more to his Advantage than People will at preſent believe.

You know I was in *France* before the late King died, and was then much in Love with the French Genius, tho' I did not much admire the Uſe they at that Time made of it: They had a King upon the Throne, who as every Body muſt confeſs, was a great Man; yet he was too much given to Gallantry, publick Show and Divertiſment to be King of that People; their lively Spirit is eaſily influenc'd, and the Genius of their King during his long Reign, ſpread and rooted it ſelf ſo in the Country, that one may almoſt ſay, *France* was a Nation of Lovers. That great Country was a Kind of *Opera-Stage*, where every French Man and Woman

man acted their Part, every Body ſung and danc'd every where, even along the Streets: Altho' their King in the midſt of his Gallantry always minded his Buſineſs, yet the Subjects for the moſt Part minded Nothing but Gallantry: They, like all other Imitators, unluckily neglected the principal Part of that Character, they affected to imitate.

In the Midſt of this their Diſtraction, I obſerved that frugal, active, enterpriſing and allert Spirit which is the moſt proper for Buſineſs, and is more univerſal in this Country than in any other I ever travelled in. I ſaw that if ever they got a King, whoſe Head turn'd entirely upon Trade and Projects of that Kind, we would have more to fear from the Power of *France* growing by Trade, than ever we had to fear from the Power of *France* growing by Conqueſt. Conqueſt in a long Tract of Time may make the conquering Nation powerful, but as long as the leaſt Glimpſe of Liberty can touch the Hearts of the Conquer'd, the Conqueſts will be a Burthen upon the Conquerors.

What the French Nation wanted they have now got; they have a Prince at their Head whoſe chief Study is not to divert them, but to employ them; not to make

them

them glorious Slaves, but to make them rich Subjects: And this Prince is ſo lucky and ſo well knows Mankind, that he has found and pick'd out a Man ſo fit for being his prime Miniſter, that by the Projects of the one, and unlimited Power of the other, *France* has already done beyond what the World can conceive, and if they two live awhile together, it will yet do beyond what any one can at preſent imagine.

I ſay the unlimited Power of the other, for if the Regent had been ſubject to a Parliament, or his Power any Ways limited, he could never have brought his Projects to bear ſo well as they have done. Tho' in general it's an Advantage to a People to have their Monarchy limited, yet when a wiſe and prudent Man comes to reign over them, the leſs limited his Power is, the better for the Nation. But ſince there are always more weak Men than wiſe Men in the World, therefore I think a limited Monarchy, to take it in the General, more convenient than an abſolute and arbitrary Soveraign

As for Mr. *Laws*, I ſhall ſay nothing of him, becauſe I am not able to ſay what he deſerves; but as the Painter cover'd with a Veil what his Pencil could not expreſs,

preſs, ſo ſhall I cover with the Cloud of Silence, that Character which is too ſublime for my Pen to deſcrive.

What ſtrange Things happen in One's Life time? I who came here to Dance, Sing, and be Merry, to frequent Opera's, Balls, Maſquerades, and to ſpend my Money, never had ſo much as the leaſt Thought of either: You know I am always for obſerving that Precept, *Cum fueris Romæ, Romano vivito more*: The time I was here formerly, the People were all Dancers and Singers, I danc'd and ſung with them; when I laſt arriv'd I found their Heads all turn'd upon Trade and Stock-jobbing: I turn'd my Head likewiſe that Way, I jobb'd a little, and ſo have made my ſelf Rich: Having pickt up as much Money as I think I have uſe for, I now begin to long for a little Dancing and Mirth, you know I like it much, I do not know the Reaſon of it; but there is ſomething ſo agreeable in the Company of ſprightly young Fellows of Senſe, that I muſt confeſs I am pleas'd to ſee them, and delight in their Converſation. I hope you are perſuaded that I keep as cloſe a Watch over all the Minutes of my Life, and have as great a Regard for my Honour as any other of my Sex; but I do not deſire to be thought ſuch a

Prude,

Prude, as not to have the leaſt Pleaſure in the Company of a real fine Gentleman: No, Nature is not quite extinguiſh'd in me, Modeſty and Religion are equal in this, that neither of them exclude the innocent Pleaſures of Life. I never ſaw a Man who made a great Noiſe with his Religion, but deſign'd to cover the Knave with that Cloak: Nor did I ever ſee a Lady who bragg'd much of her Modeſty and ſtorm'd at a Gentleman's ſtealing a Kiſs, or taking her by the Hand in Publick, but who could patiently take a pretty Gentleman in private under her baſhful Petticoat; all theſe great Pretenders either to Religion or Modeſty, are like Dr. *Garth*'s Pretender to Buſineſs.

In Haſte he ſtrides along to Recompence
The want of Buſineſs with its vain Pretence.

It gives me much Joy to hear that my Countrymen are beginning to have ſome Thought about the Fiſhing Trade. The Seas belonging to *Britain* conceal in their Boſoms, Treaſures much more advantageous, and more convenient for *Britain*, (if we would but ſearch for them) than all the golden Mines of *Peru* and *Mexico*. If People conſider right, even Gold is but a Commodity, a kind of Manufacture,

and has this Diſadvantage attending it, that the Workmen there employ'd are but few, and generally Slaves, not Subjects, whereas all other Manufactures employ and maintain great Numbers of natural Subjects. If I had time, I could ſhew you that Gold and Silver Mines are generally the Ruin of the Country that has them; and I believe could eaſily demonſtrate that Money may be over plenty in a Country, as well as too ſcarce, but of this another time.

Of all Manufactures or Trades, certainly that of the Fiſhing is of the greateſt Conſequence to *Britain*, whoſe Safety depends upon its Number of Seamen. Since you deſire it, I ſhall write you my Thoughts of the *Britiſh Fiſhery*, and how it may be moſt eaſily and moſt probably recover'd.

It is perhaps a little arrogant in me to pretend to know any thing about Trade, and I would rather chuſe to be ſilent than expoſe my ſelf to the Cenſure of the World, if I thought they were to know what I am to ſay upon that Head. But I preſume as I have always done, to tell you my Thoughts freely, ſome of them may be right, they cannot all be ſo; there is nothing perfect under the Sun. It makes me the more forward,

that

that I have always obſerv'd, that when Women do think, their Thoughts are generally as well receiv'd by the World, as the Thoughts of Men, and the World is the trueſt Touchſtone of every Thought that proceeds, either from Man or Woman, which makes me ready to believe that it's our own Merit, not the Worlds good Breeding, that makes them give ſuch a favourable Reception to the Productions of the Fair.

What is moſt ſupriſing to me is, that in this Particular, we have often the Ladies upon our Side; they are not ſo ready to reproach us for being beneficial to the World in this Way, as for being beneficial to it by Productions of another Kind. This makes me think, that there are not ſo many Ladies who covet to be Authors, as there are that covet to be Miſtreſſes; they do not envy us the Joys we receive from being agreeable to the World as an Author, but if a poor young Creature happen to ſeem agreeable to a fine Gentleman, and to receive a Favour from him, the reſt are all in an Uproar, they envy her the Joy of being a Miſtreſs, and therefore their Malice is let looſe againſt her.

But now to the Fiſhing Buſineſs. I muſt for a little lay aſide the Epiſtolary

Strain, and take up that of the Declaimer, That you may take the better along with you what I ſay, I ſhall follow ſome ſort of Method.

I ſhall firſt ſhew what Advantages *Britain* may reap by the Fiſhery.

Then I ſhall tell you, which in my Opinion is the moſt probable Way of recovering it.

And laſt, I ſhall take a ſhort View of each of the three great Fiſhing Trades, *viz.* That upon our own Coaſts, that upon the Coaſts of *Greenland* and *Iceland*, and that upon the Coaſts of *Newfoundland*.

In treating of theſe Three particularly, I ſhall endeavour to make plain, that *Britain* has by Nature, the Advantage of all other Nations, in every one of the Three, and that we might eaſily turn every other Nation in the World out of them, if we made the right Uſe of thoſe Advantages Nature has beſtow'd upon Us.

As to the Advantage *Britain* may reap by the Fiſhing Trade.

Every Body muſt allow that the Strength and Riches of a Country depends upon the Multiplicity of Inhabitants; every one at work and contributing

ing ſomething to the general Account of Profit of their Country.

Every Man who earns more by the honeſt Labour, either of his Hands or Head, than he ſpends Yearly, is in ſo far a profitable Subject; and that Man who makes leſs, ought to be thrown out of the Republick, unleſs by his Services towards it, he deſerves the Maintenance his Countrymen are oblig'd to give him. This conſider'd, it will be granted, that poor Tradeſmen are the moſt profitable Members of a Republick, and rich idle Gentlemen the Bane of Society.

That Trade then which maintains moſt of the poorer ſort of our People, is of moſt Advantage to the Country in general: But of all Sorts of poor People, theſe are of the greateſt Conſequence who can ſerve their Country, either by Land or Sea, who are bred up in Dangers, and enur'd from their Cradle to Hardſhips: *Horace*'s Advice about the Education of Boys is good.

And let him live and lie abroad,
'Midſt Dangers, Slaughters, Fears and Blood,
Be toſt with all the Storms of Fate
And harden'd up to prop the State.

Seamen,

Seamen, therefore of all Subjects are the moſt uſeful to their Country in time of Danger, and in time of Peace they contribute a great deal towards its Trade and Riches.

If Seamen be neceſſary to every Country, they muſt be much more ſo to *Britain*, whoſe greateſt Strength and Safety conſiſts in their Fleet of Warlike Ships. We by our happy Conſtitution can have no great ſtanding Army within our ſelves to defend us from any invading Enemy: Nor have we any fortify'd Towns to protect us, or to put a Stop to their Career. If a powerful invading Enemy once get to Land, we are loſt and undone; our raw Soldiers cannot ſtand againſt their diſciplin'd Troops; we muſt ſubmit and receive the Yoak of the Invader.

But bountiful Nature has ſurrounded us with the Ocean, and our wiſe Forefathers have planted it with an invincible Fleet, which, as long as we poſſeſs, will cover us from all Danger. If we wander from the Steps of our Predeceſſors, and allow our Trade and Shipping to decay, the Numbers of our Seamen will decreaſe, and the Strength of our Fleet muſt diminiſh in Proportion, and we become a Prey to every Invader.

I am perſuaded no Body will deny that of all Trades in the World, the Fiſhing Trade is the greateſt Nurſery for Seamen, eſpecially, if one conſiders, that of the Fiſhermen employ'd aboard the Fiſhing Ships, one third, at leaſt, are green Men, that is, ſuch as never were at Sea before. We were the firſt People in *Europe* that made any great Figure in that Trade, to which I am apt to believe, we owe the Foundation of our Strength at Sea. We have been of late, by our Negligence and ill Conduct, almoſt entirely joſtled out of it by our Neighbours the Dutch and French, which has increas'd their maritime Strength, far beyond what was poſſible for them otherwiſe to have done.

Beſides the Advantage this Trade brings by encreaſing the Number of Seamen, it is likewiſe a moſt profitable Trade to a Country: Whatever Sum they make by their Fiſh exported, is all clear Gain to the Nation; the Country is at little or no prime Coſt; the whole Profit is the Produce of the Labour and Pains of the Subject.

As I paſs'd thro' *Holland* in my Way hither, I made ſome Enquiries into the Nature of their Fiſhery; the Profit they made by it, and the Number of Ships and

and Seamen employ'd by them in that Trade: But I had not Time to make them ſo compleat as that I can communicate them to you or any Body elſe. The Diſcoveries I have made into the French Fiſhery, are as yet in the ſame Condition, ſo I ſhall not trouble you, at this Time, with either: But by the Obſervations made by other People, it will appear of what vaſt Conſequence the Fiſhing Trade is, and how much it would redound to the Intereſt of *England* to proſecute it.

Mr. *Smith*, in his Calculations, computes, that the Profit made in the Fiſhery Trade by the ſeveral Nations of *Europe* engag'd therein, amounts to ten Millions Sterling yearly, and that at leaſt, a half of that Gain belongs to the Dutch. Sir *Walter Raleigh*, indeed, alledges, that the Dutch alone make ten Millions yearly by it; but that is certainly more than it's poſſible for them to do; tho' I believe the other Calculation of the Dutch Profit is rather too low, for I doubt not but the Dutch make more Profit by their Fiſhing, than all the other Nations together. I think Mr. *Mun* ſays, that in his Time, the Value of the Fiſh exported by our Nation amounted to but 140000 *l. per Annum*, and I dare affirm it is not much augmented ſince. What a ſmall Part

then

then of the ten Millions Profit falls to our Share.

And yet, if we would apply ourſelves in good Earneſt, to that Trade, it's very certain that we might turn all other Nations out of the moſt Part of it; at leaſt, we might turn all other Nations ſo far out of it, that none of them would be able to ſerve any Country but their own, ſo that the Profit made by ſerving all the other Nations of *Europe*, except the *French*, *Dutch* and *Dane*, would accrue to us; and I do not reckon that theſe Nations deſtroy above one Third Part of the Fiſh that is deſtroy'd in *Europe*, ſo that in a ſhort Time we would export Fiſh to the Value of at leaſt ſix Millions yearly more than we do at preſent: And if our general Ballance of Trade be now at *Par*, this whole Sum muſt come Home to us in ready Money, which would ſoon make all the Gold and Silver in *Europe*, centre in this happy Iſland.

Another Advantage I ſhall reckon, which I believe few take Notice of, and that is, the Difference of maintaining a Fiſherman at Land and at Sea. When they are at Sea, they live moſt partly upon the Fiſh they take, and all that they ſave by leſſening the daily Expence

of their Living, is ſo much clear Gain to their Country. If a Fiſher eats and drinks, when at Land, to the Value of four Pence half-penny *per* Day, which I ſuppoſe he will, and when he is at Sea, beſides the Fiſh he eats, he ſpends not above two Pence half-penny, he then ſaves two Pence a Day to his Country. If we were in full Poſſeſſion of the whole Fiſhing Trade, as we might be, we would have one Day with another, at leaſt thirty thouſand Men Aboard our Fiſhing Ships the whole Year round, upon every Man the Country would ſave two Pence a Day which they would have ſpent if they had been at Land, ſo that upon maintaining theſe 30000 Men our Country would ſave 250 *l.* a Day, which in a Year amounts 91250. This is an Advantage reap'd by the Country in no other Trade except that of the Fiſhing.

It's computed that we import from the *Baltick*, Naval Stores to the Value of four or five hundred thouſand Pounds yearly, for moſt of which we ſend out ready Money. The Dutch carry Fiſh there to the Value of one Million Sterling Yearly, from which it's plain, that if we made the beſt we could of the Fiſhery, our general Ballance of Trade in that one Branch would gain 5 or 600000 *l.* yearly, inſtead of loſing 400000 *l.* And

And our Merchants who import naval Stores from the *Baltick* could ſell them cheaper than it's poſſible for them now to do, when they muſt ſend ready Money for what they are to buy. For Example, let us ſuppoſe a Merchant deſigns now to ſend for a thouſand Pounds worth of naval Stores, for which he expects 8 per Cent Profit, when he gets them Home. If we reckon eighty Pounds to him for Profit, and a hundred Pounds for all Charges, he cannot ſell the Cargo of naval Stores he gets Home, under one thouſand one hundred and eighty Pounds: But if he can ſend a Cargo of Fiſh for what he wants, he may readily get as many Fiſh here for nine hundred Pounds, as will yield him a thouſand Pounds at the Port he ſends them to, when he gets Home his Return of Naval Stores, he deſires no more but 8 per Cent Profit of the firſt Stock he paid out for the Fiſh; ſo counting a hundred Pounds as before for Charges, and ſeventy two Pounds for Profit, he may now ſell for one thouſand ſeventy two Pounds, as much naval Stores as he formerly could have ſold for one thouſand one hundred and eighty Pounds. If he is at a little more Expences in ſending Fiſh than he would have been, by ſending Money, he ſaves the Riſque of

exporting Money, or which is the ſame Thing the Exchange, which to the Eaſtern Country muſt of Neceſſity be at preſent againſt us.

Beſides the vaſt Advantage this Trade would be to the general Ballance of our Trade, it would bring another great Advantage to the Nation in augmenting to an incredible Degree the Number of our Seamen.

Some compute that the Dutch employ in the Fiſhing for Herring and Cod upon the Coaſts of *Britain* eight thouſand Ships, aboard of which they have two hundred thouſand Seamen and Fiſhers.

That they and the *Hamburghers* have yearly at *Greenland* five hundred Ships which will employ at leaſt ten thouſand Seamen.

And that the *French*, *Portugueſe* and *Spaniſh Biſcayers* ſend every Year for Fiſh to *Newfoundland* four hundred Sail of Ships, aboard of which, we may reckon Men and Boys eight thouſand: Beſides great Numbers of Fiſhermen that live in the French Plantations about *Cape-Breton*, and aſſiſt them in their Fiſhing.

If our own Countrymen had but any tolerable Conduct and made the beſt Uſe of our own Rights and Properties, and of the

the natural Advantages of their Country, they might eaſily wind themſelves into the moſt Part of every one of theſe Fiſhings, and if they did, it's plain from theſe Calculations, that we might employ upwards of eight thouſand Ships, and at leaſt two hundred thouſand Seamen more than we do upon this Trade alone, Allowance being made to the Dutch and other Nations of nine hundred Ships for ſerving their own particular Countries.

The building of Ships, the making of Nets and other Materials for Fiſhing, and the curing, ordering and preparing our Fiſh would employ thirty thouſand more People aſhoar; and the providing our Seamen and other People employ'd about the Fiſhery, in Meat, Drink, Cloaths and other Neceſſaries, would give Bread and Buſineſs to ſixty or ſeventy thouſand more of our People at Land; ſo that if we were ſo lucky as to ſucceed in our Fiſhery Buſineſs, and turn all thoſe People who now carry it on, out of the Uſurpations they have made upon us, we would add at leaſt two hundred thouſand Seamen and a hundred thouſand Landmen to the Stock of our People; and the Fiſh we exported would bring in to us yearly ſix Millions Sterling, all in ready Caſh, if the general Ballance of Trade

be

be now at *Par* or upon our Side, as I believe it is.

Every little fiſhing Village upon our Coaſts, would then increaſe, and all become rich and populous Cities, and the furniſhing of them with Cloaths and other Neceſſaries for Life, would enrich and augment all our inland Towns. Every Acre of Land in *Britain* would be improved and laid out to the beſt Advantage, which would encreaſe the yearly Value of the whole Lands of *Britain*, I may ſay to at leaſt three or four Times as much as they are at preſent. Every Gentleman of one thouſand a Year Land Eſtate now, would then become a Man of three or four thouſand a Year.

Nor let any Man ſay that it's impoſſible to encreaſe the yearly Value of the Lands of *Britain* ſo much, one may be eaſily convinc'd of the contrary, by comparing the yearly Value of the Lands in the Province of *Holland*, with the yearly Value of the Lands in *Britain* and *Ireland*. It will be found that in Proportion to the Extent, or Acres contain'd, the yearly Value of the Lands in *Holland* is twenty Times as much as the yearly Value of the Land in *Britain* and *Ireland*. They may therefore bear very well to be encreas'd to triple or quadruple the yearly Value

Value they are now at. I would have our landed Gentlemen conſider this, and refuſe no Burthen, which at preſent may be neceſſary to be laid upon them for ſetting up and encouraging a Trade which may conduce ſo much to the Advantage of their Poſterity.

Our thriving in this Trade would likeways encourage all the other Branches of our Trade. It would ſo increaſe the Number of our Seamen, that our Shipping of all Kinds would be better ſerv'd, and at a cheaper Rate than the Shipping of any other Country, which would enable us to ſell all our other Sort of Commodities cheaper than we can do at preſent, and a Merchant of a ſmall Stock who had a mind to fetch from abroad any Commodities neceſſary for his Country, would much eaſilier get a Cargo of Fiſh upon his Credit to ſend for theſe Commodities, than he could get a Sum equal to the foreign Value of theſe Fiſh, to ſend for what he wanted from abroad.

As for the Recovery of the Britiſh Fiſhery, I ſhall tell you, that in my humble Opinion, it is impoſſible to recover it without eſtabliſhing a Fiſhing Company. If the Nations now in Poſſeſſion of it ſhould become as remiſs and neg-

negligent of it as we have been, for theſe hundred Years by paſt, we might come to recover it by Degrees even by the Adventures of private Men: But this Way is very uncertain and tedious. The only ſure and ſpeedy Way of recovering it, is by a publick Company.

I do not mean an excluſive Company, that is to ſay, that all the Subjects of *Britain*, except thoſe concern'd in the Company ſhould be excluded from Fiſhing in any Part of the World. Freedom of Trade I take to be a Priviledge belonging to every Subject, by his Birth, and it was never as yet incroached upon or taken away, but what it has been attended with bad Conſequences to the Trade of *Britain*.

The granting of any Trade to a Company excluſive of all others, is (beſides the Prejudice done to the Birth-right of the Subject) of dangerous Conſequence to that Trade in particular. It is the truſting one of the Branches of our Trade entirely to a particular Set of Men. They by enjoying it, excluſive of all others, for but a very few Years, make all the reſt of our Subjects turn their Thoughts off from that Trade: And if at any Time afterwards that Company do fall under the Management of weak or villainous Men, there may ſuch

ſuch a Stop be put to their Trade, that other Nations may eaſily take it up, and ſecure themſelves ſo in it, that neither our Company nor any other of our Subjects will ever be able to recover it again; for neighbouring Nations are always ready to take Advantage of our Miſmanagements, and to fix themſelves in a Trade which we loſe by our ill Conduct: And here the Miſery is, that let the Company's Miſmanagement be how great it will, our own Subjects cannot take Advantage of it, becauſe of the Excluſion they lie under, which Foreigners do not.

We ought to take the more Notice of this becauſe the loſing of any one Branch of our Trade does Harm to our Trade in general, and to every Branch thereof in particular; as the loſing of any one Member of a natural Body incommodes the whole, and adds a new Burthen to every particular Member.

But when the Company has no excluſive Priviledge, their Mal-Adminiſtration is of no dangerous Conſequence to the Trade of their Country; for private People of our own Subjects will ſtill be in a way of exerciſing that Way of trading, and will be more ready and better capacitated to make Advantage of the Company's Miſ-government than any Foreigner. In

this Caſe the Company may be ruin'd, but the Trade is not loſt to the Country, it is ſtill carry'd on by our own Fellow Subjects.

I know People will object againſt this, and ſay, that Companies can never carry on a Trade at ſo eaſie a Rate as private Men, becauſe they are obliged to maintain Forts and Garriſons in foreign Parts, to make Preſents to foreign Princes for their Favour, and to give Sallaries to Directors, Governors, *&c.* and therefore, unleſs their Trade be excluſive of all others, it will be impoſſible for them to carry it on, becauſe private Men who are not at theſe extraordinary Charges will be able to under-ſell them, and ſo to turn them entirely out of their Trade.

My Anſwer to this is, That if it were certain, that Companies could not carry on their Trade as cheap as private Men, it would be a good Reaſon againſt ſetting up Companies of any Kind; for a Nation, if it looks to its own Advantage, will always encourage moſt that Way of trading, or thoſe Merchants who can ſell their Commodities cheapeſt, becauſe they who ſell cheapeſt in foreign Markets, are moſt likely to improve the Trade by underſelling all Foreigners, and ſo to turn them out of it, or to keep it to themſelves

ſelves by ſelling cheaper than any Foreigner can propoſe to do.

If a Company could not ſell cheaper, or at leaſt as cheap as any private Merchant, the giving them an excluſive Privilege would be one of the maddeſt Things in the World, unleſs we could make our Excluſion reach the Subjects of all other Countries as well as thoſe of our own. If we cannot do this, the Company's Privilege would, indeed, prevent their being turn'd out of their Trade by the private Adventures of our own Subjects; but it would certainly be an eſtabliſhing by Act of Parliament, a Way by which Foreigners could turn, both our Company and all the reſt of our Subjects out of that Trade; For, if the private Merchants, our own Subjects, can trade cheaper in that Way than the Company can do, Foreigners, no doubt, can do the ſame; our Act of Parliament will not exclude them, and they who trade cheapeſt can ſell cheapeſt, and they who ſell cheapeſt will carry the whole Trade at laſt. Indeed, if our Company, by their Forts and Garriſons can exclude all other People from interfering with them in their Trade, they have ſomething more to ſay; but this no Company can pretend to, and tho' they could, it would be more profitable

for the Nation in general that theſe Forts and Garriſons ſhould be maintain'd at the publick Expence, and a free Trade allowed to all Subjects as well as to the regular Company.

I believe the Champions for publick Companies, after they conſider this, will begin to be of my Opinion, and to think that Companies eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament can always carry on their Trade at a leſs Profit than private Men can do, and can ſell their Commodities cheaper if their Adminiſtrators are honeſt and underſtand their Buſineſs. I could ſhew many Reaſons, but I ſhall content my ſelf with one.

That if we ſuppoſe the Trade carried on by private Men in Oppoſition to a Company, we muſt ſuppoſe it all carried on by private Merchants, each trading by himſelf and upon his own particular Account, and each muſt have ſuch a Profit as Merchants generally expect in the ordinary Courſe of Merchandizing; for, if we ſuppoſe the Trade carried on by a rich and numerous private Company, that Company will be ſubject to all the neceſſary Charges a publick Company is ſubject to, without having any of the Advantages acquired by being erected into a publick Company.

I ſhall

I ſhall ſuppoſe therefore, a Stock of 500000 *l.* employ'd by private Men, (each upon his own Account) in the Fiſhing Trade, or any other: We may readily ſuppoſe that no Merchant will carry on a Trade, as Intereſt goes now, at Five *per Cent.* without making Eight *per Cent.* at leaſt of Profit, free of Inſurance and all Charges, by this Trade they altogether will make 40000 *l.* Yearly.

Upon the other Hand, let us ſuppoſe this Trade carry'd on by a publick Company, with a joint Stock of 500000 *l.* This Stock of theirs is made up by taking in Subſcriptions from every Body that has a Mind to venture any thing in that Trade; ſo that the Proprietors of it are few, or perhaps, none of them Merchants, at leaſt if they be, they are ſuch, who are engag'd in other Trades upon their own private Adventures, and put into the Fiſhery-Stock their own Over-grown Stock. I call a Merchant's Stock Over-grown, when he has got more Money than he can employ in his own private Way of Trading. If they had not ſuch a publick Stock to put it into, they behov'd to let it out upon Intereſt, or buy Land with it, ſo that none of the Proprietors of the Fiſhery-Stock, being at any Pains about the Trade, unleſs

leſs they be Directors or Managers, and having in that Stock only what Sums they would otherways have out in private Hands upon Intereſt. If the Company can divide but a little more than the ordinary Intereſt, their Proprietors will be very well content, and the Stock will ſell at leaſt at *Par.*

If then the Company can divide ſix *per Cent.* to their Subſcribers, they will certainly be well ſatisfy'd, as Intereſt of Money goes at preſent, at five *per Cent.* and every Man in the Kingdom, who has ready Money, will rather put it into the Company's Stock, than put it in private Hands at the legal Intereſt. By dividing Profit at ſix *per Cent.* a Company with 500000 *l.* Stock divides yearly 30000 *l.* among the Proprietors; and if the Company is under any tolerable Management, 5000 *l.* a Year may pay all their extraordinary Expences, ſuch as Sallaries to Directors, Clerks, Accomptants, and the like. This Company then may ſell one Eighth *per Cent.* cheaper than private Men will, or can do: For the Company may contentedly carry on their Trade at ſeven *per Cent.* neat Profit. They who are at any Trouble have good Sallaries for their Pains, and all the reſt have one *per Cent.*

Cent. more than the common Intereſt, without any Diſturbance to their other Buſineſs.

The greater the Company's Stock is, the leſs will their extraordinary Charge be in Proportion to their Stock; for the *South-Sea* Company whoſe Stock is computed at Eleven Millions and above, is not at 10000 *l.* yearly of Expence. The greater therefore any Company's Stock is, the cheaper they can ſell their Merchandize, and the more under what private Men trading by themſelves are able to do.

It's a ſelfiſh and intereſted Pretence for Company's to allege that they are not able to ſell as cheap as private Merchants may do: There is no other Deſign in it but that they by their excluſive Privilege, may make a Monopoly of the Trade they deal in, and ſell their Commodities, both Export and Import at what Rate they pleaſe, which is moſt dangerous, and a ſure Way both to encourage and enable Foreigners, to ſell cheaper than our Company does, and to turn us entirely out of the Trade.

Others may think what they will, and extol the good Senſe and Management of a Company when they divide twelve or fifteen *per Cent* Profit yearly. I have

the

the Misfortune to differ from the World in this, as well as in many other Ways of thinking; for in my Opinion, the Trade of that Company is going to Ruin, and the Managers ought to be puniſh'd as Enemies to the common Good of their Country. This perhaps may ſeem a little ſtrange, I muſt therefore be the more particular in explaining of it.

The Profit of a Merchant depends upon ſelling the Commodities he deals in at a dearer Price, than what they coſt him: The dearer he ſells, the more Profit he has. No Merchant can ſell long at an extravagant Price, becauſe other People will take Notice of the great Profit he makes, and will enter into the ſame Trade, and then every one will endeavour to ſell cheaper than another, thereby to enhance the Trade to himſelf, and to exclude all the reſt. If indeed, a Company, or a Merchant has an excluſive Privilege, that is to ſay, a Monopoly by Law eſtabliſh'd, he may ſell at what Rate he pleaſes, for any Danger he is in from his fellow Subjects; they cannot take up the ſame Trade, becauſe they are excluded by Law: But if the Company, or Merchant, by Virtue of this legal Monopoly makes an extravagant Profit, Foreigners will take

Notice

Notice of it, and will immediately begin to drive the ſame Trade they cannot be excluded by Act of Parliament; and tho' at firſt they muſt be at an extraordinary Expence, yet if they content themſelves with a ſmall Profit, they may ſell as Cheap as our monopoly Merchant: They never offer to ſell Cheaper till they get themſelves well Eſtabliſh'd in the Trade, then indeed they will begin to underſell our Excluſive Company or Merchant; but then it is too late for him to take Notice of it, they being well Eſtabliſh'd in the Trade, can ſell as Cheap as he can do for his Heart, and therefore they muſt be, at leaſt, Sharers with him in the Buſineſs, in ſpite of what he can do. This is one Diſadvantage then accrues to a Country by an Excluſive Company's taking a great Profit; it invites, and enables Foreigners to ſet up the ſame Trade, which they would never have done, or been able to have done, if the Company had contented themſelves with a ſmall Profit.

Another Diſadvantage is, that it hurts the general Trade of the Country, and diminiſhes the Conſumpt of its Manufactures: It's a certain Rule, that the Cheaper any Commodity, or any Manufacture is ſold, the more of it is conſumed; and it's as certain a Maxim, that it's bet-

ter for a Country to have a great Deal of their Manufactures conſumed, tho' they be ſold Cheap, than to have little conſumed, tho' ſold Dear. It's better for a Country to have a hundred Pieces of Cloth conſumed, which ſold at 2000 l. than to have but fifty Pieces of the ſame Cloth conſumed, tho' they ſold at the ſame Value, *viz.* 2000 l. The ſame Sum is indeed gained, but the making of one hundred Pieces of Cloth, will employ double the Number of People that the making of fifty Pieces of the ſame Cloth will maintain. If any Engliſh Merchant exports three hundred Pieces of Engliſh Cloth; for Example to *Muſcovy*, and ſells them there for 20 l. per Piece, which amounts to 6000 l. the making of theſe three hundred Pieces of Cloth employed, and maintained perhaps three hundred of our poor People. The Merchant finding that he has a Monopoly of this Trade, raiſes the Price of his Cloth to 30 l. per Piece: This Cloth, by this Means, becoming very Dear in that Country, none but the richeſt Sort of People will wear it; the inferiour Rank will content themſelves with ſome other ſort of Cloth, which they either make themſelves, or get from other Countries; and the richeſt Sort of People being few in Number, the

Conſumpt

Conſumpt of that Cloth muſt diminiſh one Third at leaſt; ſo the Merchant, inſtead of three hundred, ſells but two hundred Pieces of that Cloth. The ſame Sum indeed is returned to the Country, and the Merchant makes more Profit than he did; but then the making of theſe two hundred Pieces, will maintain but two hundred of our poor People; ſo that one hundred of them who lived formerly by that Trade, muſt either go Abroad, and ſettle the Trade in another Country, or muſt ſtarve at Home, or be maintained Idle by the Publick. A Merchant then, by taking great Profit, does a certain and viſible Prejudice to his Country. One may object, and ſay, that the Merchant makes his great Profit upon the Returns he makes from that Country, to which he Trades, excluſive of all our other Subjects; and this Way he does no harm to his Country, but upon the Contrary, does good to it, by preventing the great Conſumption of Foreign Commodities in our own Country. Let us examin him in this Subterfuge.

The Returns he makes, he either re-exports, and ſells them to an Advantage in Foreign Countries, or they are all conſumed in our own. If he re-exports them, the cheaper he ſells them Abroad, the more of them are conſumed, which en-

courages the Country from whence he fetches them, to take many of our Commodities, and encreaſes our Shipping in that Trade, and ſo if the Merchant ſells his re-exported Goods dear, he does a Prejudice to his Country.

If they are all conſumed at Home, they are either Commodities which we have neceſſary Uſe for, or Commodities for Luxury; if they be ſuch as we have neceſſary Uſe for, he does a great Harm to his Country by ſelling them dear, becauſe it enhances the Price of all our Manufactures in which they are neceſſarily employed, and ſo hinders their Conſumpt, or it raiſes the Wages of Workmen, who muſt uſe them for their Subſiſtance.

If they are Commodities which are only neceſſary for our Luxury, he is an arrogant Merchant who pretends to judge about it: It is the Government's Part to judge in that, and it's they only who ought to endeavour to prevent it, by laying a heavy Exciſe upon the Uſe of theſe Commodities. I would have People, when they read this, reflect a little upon the Value of our *Eaſt-India* Stock at preſent, and the great Trade, we hear, the Oſtenders now begin to drive to that Country: The only Way a Company can raiſe the Value of their Stock, without prejudicing

judicing their own Trade, or the common Good of their Country, is by ſetling Colonies, and acquiring Territories in the Countries they trade to; and this is the Way the Dutch *Eaſt-India* Company has ſo raiſed the Price of their Stock.

When a Company is eſtabliſhed in a Country for ſetting up any new Branch of Trade, they are then obliged to be at ſuch a great Expence in hiring and bringing Workmen from other Countries, in providing Ships and Materials, and in building Forts, that neither they nor private Men can well ſupport it by the Advantage to be made by any Trade at its firſt Beginning, eſpecially where Merchants of other Countries are already in Poſſeſſion of it: Therefore in theſe Circumſtances the Government ought to lend a helping Hand. We ought to follow the Example of our wiſe Neighbours the *Dutch*. At the firſt Erection of their *Eaſt-India* Company, the States not only lent them their Credit, but built Forts for them, and enter'd into Treaties with the *Aſiatick* Powers upon their Account, which ſmall Expence their Government has had no Occaſion to repent of.

So likewiſe at the firſt ſetting up of a new Trade our Government ought to be at all the extraordinary Charges. If there-

by

by the Country gains a new Branch of Trade, it is Seed ſown by the Government in good Ground, they will, in Time, reap twenty, thirty, perhaps a hundred Fold.

In my poor Opinion, the Government ought always to be at the Charge of all Forts, Garriſons and publick Treaties with foreign Princes. The Advantage of any Trade carry'd on by a publick Company, not excluſive, redounds as much to the Improvement and Profit of our Country in General, as the Advantage of a Trade carried on by private Merchants: It's juſt therefore the Country in general, that is, the Government, ſhould bear the Expence of it: It's the broad Way to the Ruin of any Trade, to oblige the Merchants who carry it on, to be at a great Expence about it; The Merchants indeed, or a trading Company, are the beſt Judges where Forts are neceſſary, what Sort of Forts, and who ought to be Governors; and therefore the building of Forts and naming of Governors ought to be by the Advice of the Company or Merchants concerned, and the Government ought to to take ſpecial Care that theſe Governors give equal Encouragement to the Company, and to all private Men of our own Subjects trading to theſe

Places

Places, ſo as that the Company, by the partial Adminiſtration of theſe Governors be not able to diſcourage other Subjects from carrying on that Trade upon their own private Accounts, and thereby to make a Monopoly of it to themſelves; for all Monopolies are deſtructive to Trade, except that founded upon under-ſelling every Body elſe.

For theſe Reaſons, as I think, excluſive Companies in any Branch of Trade, of moſt dangerous Conſequence, ſo I think publick Companies not excluſive, advantagious to every Branch of Trade in which they are eſtabliſhed, and abſolutely neceſſary for ſetting up any new Branch of Trade.

The Stock employed in Trade by publick Companies, generally belongs to People who do not underſtand Trade, or who are otherways employed; which Stock would lie dead, or be only laid out upon Intereſt, if there were no publick Companies; they may ſell cheaper than a private Man will do, and they are abler to bear the Loſs, which is almoſt inevitable at the firſt ſetting up of any Trade, which other People are already in Poſſeſſion of.

They being provided with a conſiderable Stock, and great Credit can be at the

the extraordinary Charges neceſſary for beginning any new Trade, where Workmen are to be brought from other Countries and allow'd extravagant Wages to entice them to leave their Native Homes.

Private Men may project very well, but their Projects always ſtand in Need of ſome Aſſiſtance from the Government, if they be about ſetting up any new and extenſive Trade: A Company may have the Benefit of the Projects of ſeveral private Men, and will be abler to judge which is the beſt, than any ſingle Man, becauſe they judge with leſs Prejudice; and they will be much more capable to procure the Aſſiſtance neceſſary from the Government, than any private Merchant can pretend to.

All this will appear more plain by examining the ſeveral Branches of the Fiſhing Trade in particular, which is the next Thing to be done.

The three great and profitable Fiſhings in the World we have a better Title to than any Country whatſoever, and yet we have almoſt no Part of either. Theſe three, as I have ſaid are, The Fiſhing for Cod upon the Coaſts *Newfoundland*; The Whale and Cod Fiſhing at *Greenland* and *Iceland*, And the great Fiſhing upon our own Coaſts for Cod, Herrings and many other

other ſorts of Fiſh. If I am not miſin-form'd, there might be a great many Whales taken about our own *Northern* and *Weſtern* Coaſts and Iſles; a plain Proof of it I think is, that there are large Whales often come aſhoar upon the Coaſts of *Scotland*, and are kill'd there by the Country People.

We have been ſo hoſpitable, as to admit Strangers, either to a full Poſſeſſion, or to a good Share of every Part of our Fiſhing-Trade, except that of Salmon, Pilchards, and Red-Herrings, which they cannot poſſibly come at; yea, even our Salmon Trade, we have by our Miſ-management render'd much worſe and leſs profitable to the Country than it might be: One may ſay, we have loſt every Thing but our Ears, and them we would have loſt too, if they had been looſe.

I ſhall firſt examin the Fiſhing upon our own Coaſts, where I ſhall endea-vour to diſcover the Means whereby we have loſt it: The Natural Advantages we have beyond others for carrying it on: And the moſt profitable Way of re-covering it.

The principal Reaſon why the *Dutch* have prevail'd over us in this Trade, and ſqeez'd us entirely out of it, is in my

Opinion, The Lowneſs of the Intereſt of Money in their Country, and the extravagant Height of it in ours. The *Dutch* Merchants for many Years paſt, paid but three or four *per Cent.* for the Money they borrowed to trade with, and our Merchants paid eight, or at leaſt ſix *per Cent.* for any Money they borrow'd to employ upon Trade.

Before I go further, I ſhall take Notice that it's the ſame thing, whether a Merchant employs his own Stock, or borrows a Stock from another Man to be employ'd upon Trade: When he borrows from another Man, his neat Profit is no more than what he makes over and above the Intereſt he pays for the Money borrow'd; and when he makes uſe of his own Stock, he counts his Profit after the ſame Way: He deduces all Charges, and the Intereſt he might have had by putting his Money out to Loan. If he can make little or no more by his Trade, than he could make by laying his Stock out upon Uſury, he cannot, (if his Stock is ſmall) live upon the Profit he makes in that Trade, he muſt turn himſelf to another; and if his Stock is great, he chooſes rather to live idley upon the Intereſt of his Money, than be at the Pains to carry on

on a Trade, whereby he makes no greater Advantage.

I ſhall likeways tell you, that the higher the Intereſt is in a Country, the more the mony'd People in that Country value their Pains and Trouble; and the fewer Artificers there are in the Country. Where Money is at four *per Cent.* Intereſt, a Merchant will think himſelf well Rewarded for his Pains, if he can make ſix *per Cent.* Profit by Trade: But in a Country where Money pays eight *per Cent.* Intereſt, no Merchant will be content with ten *per Cent.* Profit upon Trade. He makes as much real Profit as the other; but he conſiders that in the other Country, the Creditor, or he who lends the Money, has but two Thirds of the Profit, and the Merchant one Third; Whereas in his Country the Lender has four Fifths, and he but one Fifth. The Lender's great Advantage in proportion to his, gives him the Spleen, and makes him ſo diſſatisfy'd with his Trade, that if he can live idle without it, he will do it, which makes the Number of Merchants in a Country very ſmall, and of inconſiderable Stocks.

It likeways makes few and poor Workmen, or Artificers; for in a Country where Intereſt is at eight *per Cent.* and the

Trade generally runs at twelve *per Cent.* Profit, a Man of 200 *l.* Stock may live by being a Merchant, he may by his Stock and Credit for as much, make Thirty-two Pound of neat Profit Yearly: Whereas in a Country where the Money pays but four *per Cent.* Intereſt, and the Trade is generally carry'd on at ſix *per Cent.* Profit, a Man of two Hundred Pound Stock, and Credit for as much, cannot live as a Merchant, ſeeing the moſt he can make, is but ſixteen Pound Profit Yearly, which will not maintain him in a Country where Proviſions are dear, as they always are where the Intereſt of Money is low. He muſt therefore breed himſelf to ſome mechanick Employment, this augments the Number of Artificers, and makes them richer and better Tradeſmen in this Country, than in the other.

It's the Intereſt of every Country, to force their mony'd People to value their own Trouble at the loweſt Rate poſſible, which can only be done by cauſing them give their Money at an eaſie Intereſt; the leſs Value they put upon their Trouble and Pains, the leſs Profit they will be content with, and the leſs Profit they demand, the greater will be the Export of Manufactures, and the more of the rich Peo-

ple

ple engaged in Trade, which will greatly increaſe the Numbers of Inhabitants, for one rich Man's applying himſelf to buſineſs, will employ many of the poor People, who otherwiſe muſt ſtarve or go to other Countries to earn their Bread; and ſince the Strength, Power and Riches of a Country conſiſts in the multitude of its Inhabitants, it is therefore the Advantage certainly of every Country to have their Money go at low Intereſt.

But to return to the fiſhing Buſineſs, the *Dutch* Merchant who pay'd but three or four *per Cent.* Intereſt, thought he drove a profitable Trade; if he made ſix or eight *per Cent.* Profit by the fiſhing Trade. When he ſent a Ship out to the Fiſhing, he conſidered what Stock of Money he thereby employ'd, when the Ship returned loaded with Fiſh, he made up his Accounts of Money laid out, and of Fiſh returned; he exported the Fiſh again, and after counting all Coſts upon curing and export, he found he could ſell his Fiſh in the Foreign Market at ſuch a Price, and have ſix or eight *per Cent.* clear Gain to himſelf: By ſuch a Profit he thought he was well rewarded for his Pains, and therefore he deſired no greater Price than what would yield him that Profit.

Upon

Upon the other Hand, the *Engliſh* Merchant who pay'd ſix or eight *per Cent.* Intereſt, was not ſatisfied with his Trade, unleſs he could make 12 or 16 *per Cent.* Profit, that is as much in Proportion to the Intereſt Paid, as the *Dutchman* made by the ſame Trade; but the *Engliſh* Merchant ſaw, that if he employ'd any Stock upon the fiſhing Trade, he could demand no more for his Fiſh in the Foreign Market, than the *Dutch* demanded for the ſame ſort of Fiſh; and altho' he was at leſs prime Coſt upon his Fiſhing than the *Dutch* Merchant, yet he found by Computation, that if he ſold his Fiſh at the ſame Price the *Dutch* did, he would make but eight or ten *per Cent.* Profit: This he did not think worth his Pains, and therefore he either applied himſelf to ſome other Trade by which he could make more Profit, or he reſolved to lay out his Stock upon Intereſt, and live eaſily upon the returns it made him that way. For this Reaſon all our Merchants gave up the fiſhing Trade upon our own Coaſts to the *Dutch*, as a Trade not worth the keeping.

What makes it more plain that this lowneſs of Intereſt is the chief Reaſon why the *Dutch* have beat us out of the Fiſhing, is, That tho' we have never endeavoured

deavoured to fit out Ships for Fiſhing; yet we have always had ſuch a Trade upon our own Coaſts by ſmall Boats, that we have not only ſerved our ſelves, but even have ſent ſometimes large Cargoes beyond Seas. The Reaſon of which is, That our poor Fiſhermen who go out in their little Boats and catch Fiſh for us, have no Stock of Money at all employ'd in the Trade, they employ nothing but their own Labour and Pains; the ſmall Rent they pay Yearly to the Maſter for the Liberty of Fiſhing, and the Expence they are at upon their little Boat and fiſhing Tackle is ſo inconſiderable, that its not to be reckoned on. Theſe Men being extreamly Poor, they deſire no more by their Trade but their daily Bread, and having no Intereſt at all to pay or diſcount, they demand ſo little Profit, that we get our Fiſh from them at a much eaſier Rate than its poſſible, even for the frugal *Dutch* to ſell at. If our own Countrymen were obliged to ſend out Ships for catching theſe Fiſh as the *Dutch* are neceſſitate to do, we would ſoon have no Fiſhing at all, or ſuch a Thing as a Fiſherman; the *Dutch* would underſell us at our own very Ports, as well as they do at others; but for this we have God and good Nature to thank, and not our own good Conduct.

Our

Our Merchants who ſend our Fiſh beyond Seas, buy not their Fiſh till the end of the Seaſon, that they have Occaſion to ſend their Ships to *France*, *Italy*, or *Spain*, for Wines and other Commodities, or to the *Baltick* for Iron or Naval Stores; then rather than ſend their Ships with Ballaſt, they buy what Fiſh they can get from our poor Fiſhers and ſend them, truſting to their returns for the moſt of their Profit; Beſides, by buying late they ſave near half a Years Intereſt of their Money which the *Dutch* fiſhing Merchant who ſends out his Ships the beginning of the Seaſon, is obliged to pay. This enables them to ſell their Fiſh as cheap as the *Dutch* do in Foreign Markets, eſpecially now our Intereſt being brought ſo near to what it is in *Holland*.

If the Fiſhing by theſe little Boats were certain we could carry on by their means a much greater fiſhing Trade than we do, notwithſtanding the Advantage the *Dutch* have of us by their low Intereſt: But the Fiſhing this way is ſo uncertain, that a Merchant cannot depend upon the Fiſh taken by theſe ſmall Boats as a ſure way to employ his Stock. This uncertainty is the Reaſon that few or none of our Merchants follow this Trade principally, it's only by the bye, when they can get no other

other Commodities fit to be exported to the Place he is to ſend his Ship to. And this Scarcity of Merchants is again the Reaſon that our Coaſt Towns have never more Fiſhermen than what are able to live by the Vent of their Fiſh in the Country about: If they catch more than ſerves the Country, their Fiſh are often a Drug upon their Hands; they cannot get a Merchant to carry them to a Foreign Market, and they are not able to do it themſelves.

The Want of Merchants of good Stocks to take our Manufactures off of the Hands of our poor Manufacturers, and to carry them to foreign Markets, is perhaps the Reaſon of the Decay of our Woollen Manufacture and Complaints of our Weavers. But of this no more at preſent.

What further confirms what I ſay about the Lowneſs of Intereſt is, That ſince our Intereſt was reduced to 5 *per Cent.* there has been more Fiſh exported in one Year than was for many Years before in two. For tho' our Intereſt is not as yet brought near to that in *Holland*, yet the Difference is leſs than it was; ſo that the Cheapneſs of our prime Coſt in the Fiſhing almoſt makes it up.

The many Diſcouragements the North Parts of *Britain*, (which lie moſt convenient for the Fiſhing Trade) met with before the Union, and the natural Pride and Lazineſs of that People, contributed much likeways towards the Advantage of the *Dutch*. But now the Goverment will find it the Intereſt of the Nation to encourage theſe People in their Trade, as much as any other of their Subjects, and their continual Intercourſe with the trading People of *England*, will I hope, teach them, that its no ways below a Gentleman to be a Merchant, and that its a Crime for any Man to live idly upon what his Father's Induſtry has procur'd him.

At our firſt ſettling in the *Weſt-Indies*, and beginning the Plantation Trade, our Merchants made ſuch a vaſt Profit, that moſt of them turn'd their Stocks that Way, and the great Advantage we made by it, added to the Diſdain we naturally have of Trades, where we can expect but a ſmall Profit, which is another Reaſon for our neglecting ſo much the Fiſhing Trade; but the Profit of that Trade coming now to a more moderate Standard, I hope we will again begin to think that the Fiſhing Trade is worth our Pains, and apply to it accordingly.

The

The Intereſt of Money has already been lower'd by Act of Parliament, and I hope if it can be demonſtrate, that it is neceſſary for augmenting the Trade of the Nation, to bring it yet lower, the Parliament will readily go in to it, which gives me the Joy to think that not only our Fiſhing Trade, but likewiſe all our other Branches of Trade, are in a fair Way of Improvement.

I think I need not take up much Time to ſhew you the natural Advantages we have above all others, for carrying on the Fiſhing upon our Coaſts: They are evident to every Body: We have certainly the only Property in this Fiſhing, and may with Juſtice exclude all other People from it, even by Force of Arms, if they offer to come upon our Coaſts againſt our Will. I know no Reaſon why we have not done ſo, unleſs it be, that we do not think the Trade worth the keeping: But it ſeems the *Dutch* do not think ſo, for they were always at the Pains to procure a Licence under the Great Seal of *England*, for Fiſhing upon our Coaſts, till the Civil Wars came on in King *Charles* the Firſt's Time. They have likeways paid to our Kings a good Tribute for this Liberty, and in many of their Edicts, they

call it, *The Golden Mine of their Common Wealth.* If my Country-men have a Mind to vindicate their Property by Force of Arms, they know beſt how to do it; but I do not wiſh they would take that Way, I have too great an Eſteem for the Men in general, to deſire they ſhould knock out one anothers Brains; I am for ſofter and eaſier Methods.

By our Situation, we are much nearer, both to the Places of Fiſhing, and the Places of Sale, than the *Dutch*, or any other Nation: A great part of our Fiſhing Trade for white Herrings may be carry'd on by large Boats, which may go out in the Morning from our Ports, and return at Night, by which means we can get our Fiſh much ſooner cur'd, and made ready for Export than the *Dutch* can do, who muſt return to their own Country with their Fiſh, before they can pack and export them, ſo that we may be eight Days ſooner at every Market with our Fiſh, than the *Dutch* can be.

By computing the *Dutch* Expence of fitting out, the Wear and Tear of their Ships and Tackle, and the Proviſions and Wages of their Seamen, it's reckon'd that every Barrel of Herrings, as they

are

are taken out of the Net, coſts them ſix Shillings per Barrel: Whereas our Seamen upon the Coaſts will deliver ſuch Herrings at one Shilling per Barrel, and very often will be glad to get it. But ſuppoſe we ſhould be at a little more Expence than we are, in making our Ships or Boats better, and providing better Nets, yet the moſt we can reckon, that the Herrings as they fall from the Net will coſt us, cannot be above eighteen Pence per Barrel; and ſince we have Cask and Salt as cheap as the *Dutch*, and may provide our Ships cheaper, we cannot but under ſell them in Foreign Markets, unleſs we demand an extravagant Profit.

We have all theſe Advantages likeways in our Cod-Fiſhing, and this more, that we may eaſily fetch our Cod aſhoar, and dry them after the manner of the Poor-Jack of *Newfoundland*, which it's impoſſible the *Dutch* can do.

Let us now examin which is the moſt probable Way of recovering this Fiſhery Trade. We muſt certainly in the firſt Place, correct the Faults I have taken Notice of, which made the *Dutch* get the better of us in this Trade; particularly we muſt bring the Intereſt of Money, at leaſt, one *per Cent.* lower than it is. The

next Queſtion is, whether it be beſt to truſt the ſetting up of this Trade to private Merchants entirely, or to ſet up a publick Company; in my Opinion, a publick Company is abſolutely neceſſary.

The *Dutch* are ſo well provided of every thing neceſſary, and ſo expert in this Trade, and we by our long Want of any Trade of this Kind, are ſo deſtitute of every thing uſeful, and ſo ignorant, that we muſt at firſt be at an extraordinary Expence, and at a great Riſque, which, I believe no private Man will venture. Let us ſuppoſe, that a private Merchant were to ſet out only one Ship for the Cod Fiſhing, he muſt ſend to *Holland* to buy a Dogger, which are ordinarily about eighty Tun, or perhaps one hundred and twenty; ſuch Ships are ſeldom to be got in *England*, at leaſt at ſo eaſie a Rate as in *Holland*; and if ſhe is provided as the Dutch Doggers ordinarily are, ſhe muſt have a hundred Lines aboard, of a hundred and fifty Fathom or thereby each, and at every one of theſe Lines, ſo many ſmall Lines or Noſſels, to which the Hooks are fix'd. All this will coſt a pretty round Sum of Money for a private Man to venture upon an unknown Trade. Then for Servants aboard, he muſt have a Skipper who

who can manage the Ship, and direct where the beſt Fiſhings are probably to be found; he muſt have a Cutter for cutting open the Fiſh, a Splitter for taking out the Bones, a Salter, and at leaſt two Layers for ſalting and laying the Fiſh right, and one, at leaſt, of theſe Men muſt underſtand how to barrel up, and order the Livers for making Oil.

Here are five Men he muſt have aboard his Ship beſides the ordinary Seamen, and I am afraid he would be forc'd to go to *Holland* to find every one of the five: There are not many of our Countrymen who underſtand much about this Buſineſs; and it will be hard to get Dutchmen to take on with him, he muſt entice them by Force of Money and high Wages.

When he has been at all this Advance, he is not ſure if he gets a good Seaſon for Fiſhing, and tho' he do, he knows not but the Dutchmen may be ignorant of their Trade and ſpoil his Fiſh; or, perhaps, they may be knaviſh a little, and cheat him for the Sake of their own Country. It's not the firſt Time the Dutch have ſerved us ſo. But let none of theſe croſs Accidents happen, yet he is at an Expence ſo far above what the Dutch are at upon this Trade, that

I am

I am afraid he will make but a ſorry Account of his Profit.

A wary Merchant, who conſiders all this great Advance and Hazard, will not readily venture upon it, for all the Profit he can poſſibly expect by this Trade, which by its Nature yields no great Profit to the Merchant, but an extraordinary Advantage to the Republick.

If we look into the Herring Trade, we ſhall find it labours under much the ſame Difficulties: We may, indeed, carry on a little of this Trade by our open Boats near the Shoar, but how uncertain this Way is, our Merchants, Dealers in this Way, have experienc'd theſe two Years by gone. Theſe little Boats cannot go in Search of the Shoals of Herring, they ſucceed not unleſs the Shoals come near the Shoar to them, which never happens if the Wind chances to blow hard from the Sea, for the Shoals of Herring, (as has been often remark'd) generally go againſt the Wind.

Our only Recourſe then is to a fiſhing Company eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament, and encouraged and protected by the Government. It will be no great Loſs to ſuch a Company to beſtow a thouſand Pounds or two the firſt Year upon Dutch Sailors to teach their own Men

Men the Trade. Suppoſe they ſent out the firſt Year ten Sail of Doggers to the Cod Fiſhing, and as many to the Fiſhing for white Herrings, a hundred, or a hundred and ten Dutch Seamen, expert in that Buſineſs, would ſerve them ſufficiently, that is, Five Dutch-men in every one of their Cod-Fiſhers, and ſix Gippers and Packers in every one of their Herring Fiſhers; they might put ten or twelve of our own Countrymen aboard every Ship for learning the Trade, which they would do in one Seaſon, the Art not being difficult: By this Means they might ſend out thirty Sail to each Fiſhing the Year following, and would never ſtand in need of more Dutch Artiſts; ſo that the third or fourth Year, they would be able to vye with the *Dutch*, and ſoon after would prevent, and underſell them in all Foreign Markets, and ſo engroſs the whole Trade to our own Country.

The Fiſhing Ships ſent out by this Company, would be in no Danger of being maſter'd by the *Dutch*, if they happen'd to fall in with their Fleet, which any private Ship would be; for the *Dutch* are now turn'd ſo ſaucy, that even in our own Seas, they diſturb the Fiſhing of our own Ships, if they happen to meet with them; but they would have a little

more Regard to the Company's Ships, they know that the Government would be eaſily engag'd in the Company's Quarrel, and would Revenge the leaſt Indignity offer'd to them; by which, they would run the Hazard of being entirely beat out of that Golden Mine of Theirs, The Fiſhing upon our Coaſts.

As to our *Greenland* and *Iceland* Trade, People who have any Knowledge of the Hiſtory of our Trade, know, that we had once the whole *Greenland* Trade in our Poſſeſſion, and that it is now ſo entirely loſt to the *Dutch*, that we buy from *Holland*, at very dear Rates, Whalebone and other Commodities brought by them from *Greenland*.

The *Dutch* have joſtled us out of this Trade, by the ſame Way by which they ſtole into the Fiſhing Trade, upon our Coaſts, *viz.* By reducing the Intereſt of Money, which enabled their Merchants to carry on this Trade at ſuch a ſmall Profit, that our Merchants would not be at the Pains to Trade any longer this Way, ſince they could propoſe to make no greater Profit than what the *Dutch* made by it.

But if we have a Mind to recover this Trade, we want not Encouragement, from the Advantages, we by Nature

ture enjoy; many of our Ports and Harbours lie nearer to *Greenland*, by at leaſt three Days ſailing, than any of the Ports of *Holland*, which makes the *Greenland* and *Iceland* Trade, much eaſier and cheaper to us, than to them. We can Victual our Ships much eaſier in the North of *Scotland*, than they can do in *Holland*; and the moſt part of the Inhabitants of our Northern Iſlands being bred to the Sea, and ready to ſerve for a ſmall Hire, we can never want Seamen for that Trade, at leſs Wages than the Dutch Merchant can have them: Then we need to have the moſt of them, no longer than the very Time of our Fiſhing, for we can take them up upon the North Coaſts of *Scotland*, and the Iſles as we go out, and aſſoon as we return there again we may pay them off, and ſet them aſhoar, whereas the *Dutch* are oblig'd to bring all their Men from Home with them, and carry them back there again, which obliges their Merchants to pay the Seamen at leaſt ſix Days Wages, perhaps a Months Wages, more than we need pay the moſt of ours. All theſe Advantages, muſt certainly enable us to carry on this Trade much cheaper than the *Dutch* can do.

But if we cannot propoſe to ſet up the Fiſhing upon our own Coaſts, without eſtabliſhing a Fiſhing Company, we much leſs can propoſe to ſet up this Trade, which requires greater Ships, more Materials, and more Men than our Home Fiſhings; nor can one Ship do any good at all in this Trade, unleſs by great Chance. For recovering of this Trade therefore, it is neceſſary to eſtabliſh a publick Company with a large Stock to enable them to ſend out a good Fleet, and to bear a little Loſs the firſt Year. In a few Years our own Seamen will get ſuch an Inſight in the Trade, that we can carry it on always after at a much eaſier prime Coſt, than the *Dutch* or any other Nation can do, by which we muſt, at laſt, engroſs this whole Trade likewiſe to ourſelves.

I muſt now turn to the other ſide of the Globe, and enquire a little into the fiſhing Trade upon the Coaſts of *Newfoundland*.

This Iſland was firſt diſcover'd at the Charges of *Henry* VII. King of *England*, and afterwards in the Year 1583, if I right remember, one *Gilberts* took Poſſeſſion of it in Name of Queen *Elizabeth*, about which Time we began our fiſhing upon that Coaſt, which encreas'd ſo prodigiouſly, that about the Year 1600, or a little

a little after, it's computed that there were ſent from the *Weſt* of *England*, two hundred and fifty Sail of Ships yearly to the fiſhing Trade upon the Coaſts of that Iſland, where it's ſaid, the Fiſh are ſo plentiful, that three Men in a Boat at Sea to take Fiſh, and as many aſhoar to dreſs and dry them, may in thirty Days Time, kill and prepare for Export, thirty thouſand Fiſh, and maintain themſelves all the while, which, at a Penny a Fiſh, with the Train Oil at five Pounds, comes to a hundred and thirty Pounds all clear Profit, brought in to their Country by theſe ſix poor Fiſhermen; and if they continued to work the whole Year at this Rate, their Country would be enrich'd by their Labour one thouſand five hundred and ſixty Pounds. Can the Government then refuſe any Encouragement or Reward to theſe Fiſhers, or thoſe who employ them? I am afraid they ſeldom have many Miniſters of State who ſo well deſerve to be rewarded, for if the Fiſh taken by them, in a Year's Time, were worth one thouſand five hundred and ſixty Pounds upon the Iſland, we may expect that our Countrymen, by exporting them, would return at leaſt double that Sum, *viz.* three thouſand one hundred and twenty Pounds to our Country;

try; tho' it's not to be ſuppoſed that any ſix Men would ſucceed ſo well the whole Year round; yet it's very certain that we might have a rich fiſhing upon theſe Coaſts, every Month of the Year, and our Fiſhermen would be always thriving extraordinarily in ſome Place or other. I only mention what's above, to give People ſome Idea of the vaſt Riches might be made by this Trade.

And beſides this Fiſhing upon the Coaſts for dry Fiſh, or *Poor-John*, as they call them, there is a moſt lucrative Fiſhing for Green Fiſh upon the great Sand Bank towards the South of this Iſland, where they ſay the Cod-fiſh are ſometimes ſo plenty, that one Man may catch a hundred of them in an Hour, which, when cured, is reckoned worth five or ſix Pounds.

What a profitable Trade we have loſt by neglecting this *Newfoundland* Fiſhing, the Petition and Remonſtrance of the Merchants in 1659, will clearly evince, I ſhall give you a Part of it Word for Word.

We have many hundreds of Engliſh Ships, and many thouſands of Seamen that had their conſtant yearly Employment for Newfoundland,

foundland, *and being laden with Fiſh the moſt of them ſailed from thence for ſeveral Ports of* Spain. ——— *Hereby* (well conſidered) *we had great Advantage, for that clearly there was added to the Stock of the Nation at leaſt,* 500000 l. per Annum, *and ſo much got out of the Sea by the Labour and Induſtry of our People, and the Shipping maintained. And it was alſo a Nurſery for Seamen, breeding more than all other Trades whatſoever: They carry not out ſo much Beef and Bread as they would have eaten in* England, *the moſt of their Food being Fiſh; and if they had not been thus employed, perchance they might have liv'd idly at Home, and ſo have been unprofitable Members of the Common-Wealth, and to have had their Subſiſtance from other induſtrious Perſons.*

Since then it appears, that we had a great Fiſhing Trade at *Newfoundland*, and it's plain that now we have very little, let us ſearch a little after the Ways and Means by which we came to loſe it. That ſome Facts I have to inſiſt on may have the more Authority, I ſhall give the Words of an Act of Parliament in King *Charles* the Second's Time, for regulating this Fiſhery, By which it is enacted,

That

That no Perſon whatſoever do collect, or levy, or take, or cauſe to be collected, levyed, or taken in Newfoundland, *any Toll or other Duty of, or for, any* Cod *or* Poor-John, *or other Fiſh of Engliſh catching, under Pain of the Loſs of double the Value of what ſhall be by them levyed, collected, or taken, or cauſed to be levyed, collected, or taken; And, that no Planter, or other Perſon, or Perſons whatſoever, do lay any Seynes or Nets in or near any Harbour in* Newfoundland, *whereby to take the Spawn or young Fry of the* Poor-John, *or for any other Uſe or Uſes, except for the taking of Bait only, upon Pain of the Loſs of all ſuch Seynes or Nets, and of the Fiſh taken in them, or of the Value thereof, to be recover'd in any of His Majeſty's Courts in* Newfoundland, *or in any Court of Record in* England *or* Wales, *by Bill, Plaint, or other Action, wherein no* Eſſoigne, *Protection, or Wager in Law ſhall be allowed.*

And it is hereby further enacted, by the Authority aforeſaid, that no other Planter or Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, ſhall burn, deſtroy or ſteal any Boat, Cask, Salt, Nets or other Utenſils for fiſhing or making of Oil or other Goods or Merchandize left in any Harbour in Newfoundland *or* Greenland *by Engliſh; or burn, pull down, or deſtroy any*

Houſe

Houſe built by Engliſh in Newfoundland *or* Greenland *to live in during the Fiſhery Seaſon, or Stage built by them in either of the ſaid Places, for the ſaving or ordering of Fiſh, or making of Oil, upon Pain of the Loſs of double the Value of what ſhall be by them ſtollen, burnt or deſtroyed, to be recovered in any of His Majeſty's Courts in* Newfoundland *or* Greenland *reſpectively, or in any other Court of Record in* England, *by Bill, Plaint, or other Action wherein no* Eſſoign, *Protection or Wager in Law ſhall be allowed.*

From this Act you may gather the Abuſes our Fiſhing in *Newfoundland* were ſubject to. Let me examine a little into their Original.

When our Countrymen firſt ſet up this Trade, there was no Body at all liv'd in the Iſland, but a few Natives among the Hills and remote Places of the inland Country; our Fleet went out every Year from the Weſt of *England*, with Men, Proviſions, and every Thing neceſſary: When they arrived at the Iſland, if they came to a Place where they had been before, they had their Houſes and Stages aſhoar, which they had left the Year before ready to go into, ſo they went aſhoar, and immedi-

ately began their Fiſhing. If they came to a new Place, they immediately built the Houſes and Stages neceſſary, and then fell to their Buſineſs. Aſſoon as the Fiſhing was over, they return'd to *England*, leaving all theſe Houſes and Stages behind them to be in Readineſs againſt next Year, and very often too they left Boats, Casks, Nets, Pans for Boiling Oil and ſuch other Things behind them, becauſe they had no Uſe for them, but only upon that Iſland. After this manner did they manage, till the Year 1623, when King *James* the ſixth gave by Patent a Part of that Iſland to the Lord *Baltimore*, who made a Settlement there without any Sort of Government or Governors being ſettled by the King in the Iſland. The moſt Part of the Planters belonging to this Settlement were diſſolute, vagrant ſort of People who had fled their Country for ſome Crime, or had run away from our Fiſhing Ships; and they living without any Government, not only lived a debauch'd Life themſelves, but ſeduced a great many of our Sailors to deſert and live debauchedly with them. By theſe means there came ſoon to be a good Number of Seamen living upon the Iſland, which made ſome People of Stocks reſolve to live there,

and

and carry on a fiſhing Trade by themſelves, thinking that they could manage it cheaper than our *Engliſh* Fiſhers who came with their Ships every Year from *England*; but they ſoon found themſelves miſtaken, for the Expences of Living and providing their Ships there, was ſo great and ſo much above what it is in *England*, that they ſaw our *Engliſh* Merchants could carry on the Trade cheaper than they could do. This made the Planters and Fiſhers in *Newfoundland* fall upon all Ways in the World to diſcourage the ſending of Ships from *England*: They thought if they could prevent the Ships coming from *England*, that they would engroſs the whole Trade to themſelves, and ſo ſell their Fiſh at what Rate they pleaſed.

The ways they fell upon to diſcourage the ſending of fiſhing Ships from *England* were; they deſtroy'd the Houſes and Stages our Ships left behind them when they went away, that they might be obliged to build them up new again next Year when they returned, and ſo be put to a great deal of new Trouble and Expence every Year, and their fiſhing very much retarded. If the fiſhing Veſſels happened to leave behind them any Boats, Casks, Salt, Nets, or Pans for boiling of

Oyl, the Planters were ſure to deſtroy or carry off every one of them: They encouraged and aſſiſted the *French* much more than they did their own Countrymen, both becauſe the *French* gave them greater Wages and greater Price for the Fiſh they had catched; and becauſe they thought if they could turn their own Countrymen out of that Trade, the *French* would do them but little harm, ſince they ſent ſo few Ships to Fiſh there. By theſe our Miſmanagements the *French* firſt ſettled their Fiſhing in *Newfoundland*.

To prevent the Abuſes committed by our own Planters, and to keep the *French* and other Nations out of that Trade, there was a Governor ſettled there in the Year 1638: And to prevent Foreigners interfering with us, there was a Power granted to this Governor of levying Taxes and Impoſitions for Liberty of Fiſhing in thoſe Parts. By vertue of this Power he not only laid Taxes upon Foreigners, but he likewiſe made our own People pay Taxes for their Liberty of Fiſhing; ſo that what was deſigned for an Encouragement to our fiſhing, proved a Diſadvantage.

Unluckily for us we had taken up our Settlement, and begun our Fiſhing in the Northern Parts of this Iſland, which are the

moſt

moſt Mountanous, the moſt Barren, and the worſt ſituated for Fiſhing, becauſe of their Diſtance from the great Sand Bank, which lies upon the *South* Coaſt. Our Countrymen are certainly ſomething tainted with *Don Quixotiſm*: If we attack a Country, we always attack it upon the ſide where it can make the beſt Defence, and we the leaſt Profit; if we beſiege a Town, we make our Approaches upon the ſide where the Town is ſtrongeſt and beſt fortified; and if we offer to Plant a waſte Country, we begin firſt in the Place where we ſee Nature declare moſt againſt us.

The cunning *French* when they ſaw themſelves heavily taxed by us upon the *North* Side of the Iſland, where they then uſed to Fiſh, becauſe they had no Settlement of their own, retired immediately to the *South* ſide of the Iſland, and there built two Forts, and ſet up a Fiſhing of their own.

Our Civil Wars in *England* came on immediately after, and filled the Heads of our Countrymen ſo much with Faction and Religion, that no Body applied the leaſt Thought to Trade, by which we were rendered incapable of vindicating our Property in *Newfoundland*, and chaſing the *French* out of it: And the Abuſes among

among our Planters every Day encreaſing, our Merchants met with ſo many Hardſhips and Diſcouragements in their Fiſhing, while the *French* carry'd on theirs eaſily and calmy, that moſt of our *Weſt* Countrymen gave over ſending any Ships from *England*; and ſoon after they gave it over, the Price of our Fiſh roſe in that Country at leaſt one third above what it formerly was, which rivited the *French* in that Trade.

When *Oliver Cromwel* came to the peaceable Poſſeſſion of our Government, he was ſo taken up with planting and improving *Jamaica*, his own new Purchaſe, that he never thought of *Newfoundland*; and after the Reſtoration, King *Charles* met with ſo many Diſcouragements from his own People in the War he had undertaken againſt the *Dutch*, upon Account of their barbarous Maſſacrees of our Countrymen at *Amboyna* and other Parts of the *Eaſt Indies*, and upon account of their illegal Incroachments upon us in almoſt every branch of our Trade, that he gave over all Thoughts of getting the *French* baniſhed out of *Newfoundland*, which could not then be done without an open Rupture.

After the Revolution, when we were actually engaged in a War againſt *France* upon

upon other Accounts, one would have expected, that then we would have thought upon the advantagious Trade we once had in *Newfoundland*, and would have endeavoured to retrieve it, by turning a ſmall Part of our Arms that Way to beat the *French* out of the Iſland. But we were ſo much taken up with our Conqueſts in *Flanders*, that we never once thought upon the poor Iſland of *Newfoundland*; yea, we neglected it ſo much, that the *French* beat us entirely out of it, inſtead of our beating them; and they kept Poſſeſſion both of the Iſland and of the whole Fiſhing upon its Coaſts, till the laſt general Treaty of Peace concluded at *Utrecht*, when we got the Iſland reſtored to us; but the *French* got the Priviledge of Fiſhing upon its Coaſts confirmed to them, by the Sanction of a publick Treaty of Peace, a Priviledge they never before made the leaſt pretence to, nor indeed had they ever before any ſort of title to it.

The giving them this Privilege, we may likewiſe attribute to our unhappy Home Diviſions: While they laſt we may be aſſured, that no Miniſtry will look ſo much to the Welfare of the Nation, either in Peace or War, as to the ſecuring themſelves in the Adminiſtration. One Miniſtry

ſtry will make an unneceſſary War becauſe they ſee their Security and Advantage in it; and another will conclude an ill-timed Peace becauſe they cannot otherwiſe ſecure themſelves.

Even tho' one Miniſter ſhould be ſo generous as to be diſintereſted and publick minded, yet he will certainly meet with a Faction either in the Miniſtry or in the Parliament, to thwart all his generous Deſigns. The Spirit of ſuch a Man is too high to ſtoop to all thoſe little Pieces of Cunning, that are neceſſary for managing a factious People; his Heart is free and open, he cannot flatter a Scoundrel, nor conceal the Crimes of a Villain; the Generoſity of his Nature forces him to tell the great deſigning Man he hates him, with as much Freedom as he can tell the poor Man of Merit, he loves him.

As to this Fiſhing upon the Coaſts of *Newfoundland*, the State we are now in is, We have the Poſſeſſion of the Iſland, and the *French* are in Poſſeſſion of the Fiſhing, notwithſtanding the many natural Advantages we have for carrying it on in Excluſion of them.

We are much better provided of Harbours, Ships, Seamen, and Fiſhermen of all ſorts than the *French* are, except only,

as

as to thoſe Seamen who are skill'd in this Trade, in which the *French* have of late got the Better of Us: But if we apply'd our ſelves to this Trade, or to the Fiſhing upon our own Coaſts, we would ſoon exceed them, conſidering that we have now Poſſeſſion of the Iſland it ſelf, and that all our Ports upon the Weſt of *Ireland*, lie much nearer to it than any of the *French* Ports.

There are two very contrary Ways for improving the Fiſhing about this Iſland propos'd; One is, To make great Plantations of all Sorts of People in the Iſland it ſelf, and to carry on our Trade by Means of them. People think that they muſt certainly Fiſh at a much leſs prime Coſt, than the *French* do, who ſend moſt of their Fiſhing Ships yearly from *France*; but I believe they will find themſelves miſtaken. In all new Settlements or Colonies in Waſte, and Uncultivated Countries, Living is at firſt, extreamly dear, they muſt either bring their Proviſions from other well inhabited Countries, and the Fraught and other Charges makes it coſt them dear, or they muſt raiſe their Proviſions, that is, their Meat, Drink, and Cloathing, from their own waſte Country, and there Workmen being ſcarce, Wages are high, which likewiſe

heightens the Price of what the Country produces. The Way all Colonies have generally made up this Loſs is, by ſelling ſome of the Natural Productions of their Plantation at very dear Rates, which they can do, if theſe Productions can be brought from no other Country. In moſt of our Settlements in the *Weſt Indies*, our Colonies made, immediately upon their Settling, a great Profit, by raiſing Sugar and Tobacco Plantations; if their Commodities coſt them dear, they ſold them dear, becauſe they had no Rival. But all the immediate Advantage to be made by our Settlements in *Newfoundland*, is to be made only by Fiſhing, and this other People can make as well as thoſe ſettled upon the Iſland; ſo that our Colonies there, cannot pretend to greater Prices than other People demand for theſe Commodities; and unleſs they can live as cheap at their firſt Settlement, as People can do in plentiful and well inhabited Countries, they cannot pretend to ſell ſo cheap. Therefore, one muſt conclude, that the *French*, by living there, only the Fiſhing Seaſon, and even then, eating only the Proviſions they brought along with them from *France*, will carry on this Trade at a cheaper prime Coſt, than our Planters can do.

If

If there were great Numbers of People ſent to *Nefoundland*, they might increaſe ſo much in a hundred Years or two, and might cultivate the Country, (which is naturally of a rich and fertile Soil) ſo well, that they then perhaps would be able to carry on the Fiſhing Trade by themſelves. But this is a long Term, and many Accidents may intervene.

The other Propoſal is, to make no Settlements there at all, but upon the contrary, to keep People from Settling there, and to carry on the whole Trade, by ſending Ships yearly from *Britain* and *Ireland*. This Method I likewiſe think impracticable, and of dangerous Conſequence, for we would have then little more Advantage then other People, and we could exclude no Body from Fiſhing where they pleas'd upon that Coaſt. Then in our abſence the *French*, or ſome other People might take Poſſeſſion of the Iſland privately, and before we return'd, ſecure themſelves in it by Forts and Garriſons, and ſo we loſe the Poſſeſſion of it a ſecond Time.

The only beſt Way to recover this Fiſhing Trade, is to encourage as much as we can, Plantations in that Iſland, and to build Forts and Harbours, and to maintain Garriſons there for their Government

and Protection, they will in Time become a rich and numerous People, and will be very beneficial to their Mother Country.

I think Nothing of that great Objection that is made to our *New-England* and *Newfoundland* Plantations, that they produce the ſame Commodities that *England* produces, and ſo obſtructs the Sale of our Home Commodities. We may as well ſay, that People ought not to be allow'd to live in *Kent* and cultivate the Ground there, becauſe it produces the ſame Commodities that *Middleſex* does. The more cultivated Ground belongs to a Kingdom, it is certainly the richer: When People acquire great Eſtates in *New-England* or *Newfoundland*, they will return Home and live in *England*, which will greatly contribute to the Riches and Value of Lands in *England*, in the ſame manner as all the reſt of the Iſland contributes to the Riches and Value of Land in and about the City of *London*. We ought certainly to encourage the Import of Bread, Beef, Pork and all ſuch Commodities neceſſary for the Maintenance of our poor People from all Countries, and more eſpecially from our own Plantations. I could eaſily ſhew, that this would tend to the general Profit of the Country, and that the giving Premiums upon the Export of any ſuch Com-

Commodities is a certain Loſs to a Country; but this is foreign to my preſent Purpoſe.

Tho' I am for encouraging Plantations as much as poſſible, yet I think it would be fooliſh to truſt the Improvement of our Fiſhery to them only, they cannot do it for at leaſt a hundred Years to come. We muſt therefore begin again to ſend Fleets of Fiſhing Ships thither from *England*.

And if we conſider that the *French* are now in full Poſſeſſion of it, and well provided of Ships, Seamen, and every thing neceſſary for the Purpoſe, and that we are now quite ignorant of it, and deſtitute of every thing needful, we will conclude, that private Merchants will not readily undertake this Trade, they muſt expect to be prevented and underſold by the *French* at every Market. Who then can do it?

A Fiſhing Company, eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament, many thouſands of People in *England* will venture a ſmall Sum in the Hands of a Company to be employed upon this Trade, that will not venture a Farthing by themſelves alone. The eſtabliſhing of a Company is the only Way to raiſe ſuch a Sum as is neceſſary for beginning this Trade again. A Company with a good Stock can bear a ſmall Loſs for the firſt Year or two, and can ſend at firſt, twenty or thirty

Fiſhing

Fiſhing Ships to *Newfoundland*, with four or five Runners to take in the firſt Fiſh that are taken, and carry them to the beſt Markets, before the *French* or any other People not trading in Company can load and ſail from *Newfoundland*.

A publick Company will likewiſe prevail more with the Government to maintain the neceſſary Forts and Garriſons, and to give all other Aſſiſtances requiſite, than any private Man, or Set of private Men can do; and if the Government at any time happen'd to fall under any Jumble or Miſmanagement, the Company could protect their Trade from any foreign Uſurpations for a little, till the Government got it ſelf extricate out of Danger and reſtored to the Power of protecting the Subject. In all our publick Wars and publick Treaties, a regular Company would lay before the Miniſters or Parliament what they thought neceſſary to be done for the Protection or Encouragement of their Trade; whereas, when the Trade is entirely managed by private Men, no Body ever offers to do ſo; what is every Man's Buſineſs is no Man's Buſineſs, and tho' a private Man ſhould do ſo, he would not be much regarded. If we look narrowly back into the Hiſtory of our Trade, we will ſee many Ad-

Advantages we have neglected, and many Inconveniences our Trade has fallen into, meerly for want of a timely and powerful Repreſentation.

I think I have now fulfill'd what I undertook, I have ſhewn ſome of the Advantages *Britain* may reap by the Fiſhery Trade.

I have ſhewn you what in my Opinion, is the moſt probable Way of recovering it.

And I have examin'd a little into each of the three great Fiſheries of the World, *viz.* That upon our own Coaſts; That upon the Coaſts of *Greenland* and *Iceland*; And that upon the Coaſts of *Newfoundland*.

I believe my dear *Maly*, you are now yauning, or faſt aſleep: If ſo, you know what Phyſician to apply to: If ever theſe malicious Sciſſars, which cut the Thread of Poor St. *Evremont*'s Life, ſhould threaten Yours, I will be better natur'd, and more charitable than the Presbyterian Teacher he ſent for; I will not refuſe you a Doſe of the powerful Opium of Nonſenſe, in a Spoonful of the cold Julep of Monotony, when ever you ſtand in Need of it. But if what I have told you, has improv'd and employ'd your Underſtanding, I will be much better

ſatisfy'd,

ſatisfy'd, and will judge of it by your writing to me. If what I have ſaid has led you into a ſoft Slumber, you will not write to me, but when you ſtand in Need of Soporificks, which is not often. But if you have learn'd any Thing new, I know your Curioſity is always awake, and will force you to write to me often.

I had lately the Pleaſure, to receive a ſignal Mark of Fidelity from - - -